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No. 34 (Apr 1941)

Pamphlet No. 34 April, 1941

The Middlesex County Historical Society

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

ANNUAL REPORTS

SECRETARY TREASURER

LIST OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

BY-LAWS REVISED 1940

Objects Desired for the Society's Archives

Pamphlets, handbills, letters, diaries, deeds, wills, records of religious societies, business houses, etc.

Old newspapers (bound or unbound), reports of anniversaries of towns, and churches, books, articles of household use, uniforms, costumes, etc.

Portraits, badges, medals, flags, guns, swords, Indian and war relics, historic china or plate, furniture and other memorials representing local or national history.

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Officers

PRESIDENT

Ansel A. Packard, - - - - - - - - Portland

VICE-PRESIDENTS

George M. Dutcher, - - - - - - - Middletown
Rollin U. Tyler, - - - - - - - - Haddam

SECRETARY

Henry Bacon, - - - - - - - - Middletown

TREASURER

Carlyle S. Bell, - - - - - - - - Portland

Committes

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The President, - - - - - - - - Portland
The Vice-Presidents, - - - Middletown and Haddam
The Secretary, - - - - - - - - Middletown
The Treasurer, - - - - - - - - Portland
Louis S. Smith, - - - - - - - Middletown
Frank E. Potter, - - - - - - - - Middletown
William W. Wilcox, - - - - - - - Middletown

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Louis S. Smith, - - - - - - - - Middletown
Rollin U. Tyler, - - - - - - - - Haddam
Frank E. Potter, - - - - - - - - Middletown
Mrs. Maud E. West, - - - - - - - Middletown
Miss Jessie Alsop, - - - - - - - - Portland

Sec 34 (Apr. 1941)

HOUSE COMMITTEE

Henry Bacon,	Middletown
Mrs. Maud E. West	Middletown
Mrs. Martha J. Benham,	Middletown
Mrs. Mary Bunce Evans,	Middletown
Mrs. Phoebe S. Bacon,	Middletown
Miss Mary Alice Jones,	Middletown

SPEAKERS COMMITTEE

The President, *Ex-officio,*	Portland
Frank D. Haines,	Portland
Rollin U. Tyler,	Haddam
George M. Dutcher,	Middletown
Carlyle S. Bell,	Portland
Frederick J. Bielefield,	Middletown
Charles S. Ingham,	Haddam

GIFTS COMMITTEE

Miss Jessie Alsop,	Portland
Mrs. Maud E. West,	Middletown
Mrs. Mary Bunce Evans,	Middletown
Mrs. Martha J. Benham,	Middletown
Mrs. Phoebe S. Bacon,	Middletown
Mrs. Karl P. Harrington,	Middletown

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Carlyle S. Bell,	Portland
Louis S. Smith,	Middletown
Thomas M. Russell,	Middletown

LIBRARIAN

Mrs. Elizabeth V. Skinner,	Middletown

AUDITOR

Raymond S. Coe,	Cromwell

State of Connecticut, General Assembly, 1901

An Act Incorporating

The Middlesex County Historical Society

Resolved by this Assembly:

SECTION 1. That Wilbur O. Atwater, Edwin P. Augur, James H. Bunce, James H. Bunce, Jr., Walter P. Bradley, Clarence E. Bacon, Eugene H. Burr, Dale D. Butler, Morris B. Crawford, O. Vincent Coffin, Steward V. Coffin, Herbert L. Camp, George A. Craig, Frank A. Coles, George A. Coles, Albert R. Crittenden, Richard L. deZeng, Edward C. Douglas, Elmer G. Derby, Joseph T. Elliott, Richard C. Fagan, E. Burton Fall, Frederick W. Greene, Fred E. Gibbons, Elijah K. Hubbard, Azel W. Hazen, Frank D. Haines, E. Kent Hubbard, Jr., Walter B. Hubbard, Daniel T. Haines, Louis de Koven Hubbard, George H. Hulbert, Charles E. Jackson, Edward Q. Jackson, Delmar R. Lowell, C. Bingham Leach, Lyman A. Mills, Revilo C. Markham, Addison G. McKee, George T. Meech, G. Ellsworth Meech, Henry L. Mansfield, D. Ward Northrop, Charles Alfred Pelton, Wesley U. Pearne, Charles Abner Pelton, John Gideon Palmer, Samuel Russell, Samuel Russell, Jr., T. Macdonough Russell, William North Rice, Frank Farnsworth Starr, William W. Van Deursen, James C. Van Benschoten, John M. Van Vleck, Frank B. Weeks, Clarence S. Wadsworth, Henry Woodward, Charles R. Woodward, Frank C. Whittelesey, H. Charles Whittlesey, William W. Wilcox, William W. Wilcox, Jr., together with such other persons as are now or hereafter may be associated with them, with their successors, be and they are hereby constituted a body politic and corporate by the name of THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, to be located at Middletown, for the purpose of promoting the study of historical and genealogical subjects in general, and

especially in relation to said county, and for the collection and preservation of objects illustrative of history.

Sec. 2. Said corporation shall have power to make and adopt a constitution and such by-laws as it may from time to time deem best, regulating thereby all matters concerning the objects, membership, and government of said corporation, and shall have such other powers as belong to a corporation under the laws of this state.

Sec. 3. Said corporation may purchase, hold, convey or mortgage any real or personal estate to an amount not at any time exceeding fifty thousand dollars, which, together with the income thereof, used for the purposes aforesaid, shall be exempt from taxation.

Sec. 4. Said corporation shall meet once each year in the town of Middletown for the election of such officers as shall be prescribed by the by-laws; *provided, however,* that in case of failure to hold said meeting, or to elect its officers, said corporation shall not thereby be dissolved, and said officers shall hold office until their successors are elected and qualified.

Sec. 5. The first annual meeting of said corporation shall be held at such time and place in said Middletown as shall be designated by Rev. A. W. Hazen, Albert R. Crittenden, and George A. Craig, or any two of them, five days' notice thereof being given by them by mail to each member of the society, and thereafter, annual meetings and all other meetings shall be held in accordance with the provisions of the by-laws of said society.

Approved April 18, 1901.

By - Laws
of
The Middlesex County Historical Society

ARTICLE I.

MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section 1. The membership of the Society shall consist of four classes: Resident, Corresponding, Life and Honorary Members.

Resident Members shall be residents of Middlesex County or former Resident Members who live outside the county and continue to pay the dues of Resident membership. Only such members shall be entitled to vote at all meetings of the Society and be eligible to hold office.

Corresponding Members shall be former residents of Middlesex County, or other persons residing outside the county, who are interested in the purpose of the Society and who desire to be affiliated with it. When present at meetings corresponding members may take part in discussions but shall not be entitled to vote.

Life members shall be such resident and corresponding members as shall commute their payments of annual dues by a single donation as hereinafter provided. They shall be entitled to all the privileges of resident member-

ship and shall not be subject to the payment of annual dues.

Honorary Members shall be persons who have rendered important services in historical research, in literature, in art, or in science. There shall be no admission fee nor annual dues for Honorary Members.

Section 2. Applications for membership shall be filed with the Membership Committee. This Committee shall submit a written report signed by at least two of its members at the earliest meeting of the Society. A vote by ballot may then be taken upon each nomination separately. If an application receives two or more negative votes he shall be deemed to have failed of election. Applications for admission may be renewed after six months.

Annual dues for Resident and Corresponding Memberships shall be $3.00. Additional members of the same immediate family shall be required to pay only $1.00 each.

Section 3. An admission fee of $3.00 shall accompany the application and be in lieu of all dues for current year, but in case of an additional member of the same immediate family the fee shall be $1.00. In case the applicant fails of election, the fee shall be returned.

Any member may become a Life Member upon the payment of $100.00 or its equivalent in the form of a special gift or other valuable considerations. If payment is received in the form of cash, it shall be accredited to the Life Membership Fund.

Section 4. A copy of the by-laws shall be presented to each member upon admission to the Society. In case of delinquency in payment of dues the Treasurer shall notify the member in arrears and if failure to pay persists for two consecutive years, it shall operate as a forfeiture of membership and withdrawal from the Society.

ARTICLE II.

OFFICERS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1. The Officers of the Society shall be a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary and a Treasurer. There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of eight members; a Committee on Membership consisting of five members; a House Committee consisting of from three to nine members; and a Finance Committee consisting of at least three members in addition to the Treasurer as chairman.

Section 2. The President, the Vice-Presidents, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the chairman of the House Committee, and the chairman of the Membership Committee shall be ex-officio members of the Executive Committee. The officers and standing committee shall be chosen by ballot at the annual meeting.

Section 3. The President shall preside at the meetings of the Society and of the Executive Committee; he shall call special meetings of the Society or of the Executive Committee whenever he shall deem it necessary, or whenever he shall be requested in writing by three or more Resident Members of the

Society, or by any two members of the Executive Committee. He shall deliver or provide for an address at the annual meeting.

In case of absence or incapacity of the President, his duties shall devolve upon the first Vice-President, the second Vice-President, the chairman of the House Committee, the chairman of the Membership Committee in the order named.

Section 4. The Secretary shall conduct the correspondence of the Society and keep an accurate record of its transactions, including the items of interest and importance resulting from meetings of the Executive and other Committees.

He shall preserve all records, letters and papers which belong to his office, and keep a list of all books, objects and historical materials of every description given or loaned to the Society, carefully noting the conditions upon which each article is loaned or given.

He shall send to each member a written or printed notice of every meeting of the Society and notify each member of the Executive Committee whenever a meeting of this Committee is to be held.

At the annual meeting of the Corporation he shall present a written resume from the minutes and records of his office of all the items of interest which have occurred throughout the year.

Section 5. The Treasurer shall keep a full record of all receipts and disbursements, including any bequests or donations, of which he shall keep a separate account, and he shall have the custody of all the funds of the Society, paying out moneys only on the written

approval of three members of the Executive Committee, other than himself.

He shall at the annual meeting give a detailed report of his accounts as Treasurer, which report shall have been previously audited by a committee appointed for that purpose at each annual meeting.

Section 6. The Executive Committee shall have general charge of the affairs and property of the Society and of the programs of meetings. It may fill vacancies in any office until the next annual meeting of the Society. Three members shall constitute a quorum.

This Committee may purchase books, pictures, furniture, and various objects of special historical value, desirable for the purpose of the Society, and may appoint suitable persons for the care and custody of such property, but the Committee shall not incur any expenditures in excess of the appropriation made by the Society for the foregoing purpose.

This Committee shall not sell, loan, or alienate any books, articles or other property of the Society unless authorized by vote at a regular meeting of the Society or at a meeting specially called for the purpose.

Section 7. The House Committee, subject to the general authority of the Executive Committee, shall have direct charge and care of the Society's house and of its contents, including all collections, and shall have supervision of the house and of the collections therein whenever they are open to the public. The House Committee, under similar conditions, shall have power to accept or decline gifts in whole or in part, and shall

be responsible for the appointment and supervision of a custodian of the house and of the collection.

Section 8. The Finance Committee shall have charge of the financial transactions of the Society and of the custody and investment of its funds and at the annual meeting of the Society shall present a budget for the ensuing year. Purchases, sales and transfers of investments shall be made only on written approval of three members of the Finance Committee, but for this purpose the President may count as a member of the Committee.

ARTICLE III.

MEEETINGS

Section 1. Regular meetings shall be held on the third Tuesday of every month unless otherwise ordered by vote of the Society. Special meetings may be called by the President as provided in Article II. The regular meeting of the month of April shall be the annual meeting.

Section 2. Five resident members shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE IV.

ARTICLES RECEIVED ON DEPOSIT

Section 1. All papers and other articles deposited with the Society shall be receipted for by the Secretary with suitable notation of their condition and carefully preserved under the direction of the Executive Committee, and shall be delivered to the owner at any

time upon the surrender of said receipt, or of other proof of ownership satisfactory to the Executive Committee; but upon the death of the owner of any such deposit, the ownership of the same shall vest in the Society, unless, at the time of making the deposit, other conditions shall be prescribed by the depositor.

ARTICLE V.

BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPT

Section 1. The House Committee, subject to the general authority of the Executive Committee, shall have direct charge and care of the books and manuscript owned by the Society or loaned to it, and shall be responsible for the appointment and supervision of the Librarian.

Section 2. No books, pamphlets, or other printed or written matter belonging to the Starr Collection shall be loaned. Books, pamphlets, and other printed matter otherwise owned by the Society or deposited in its custody, unless restricted by conditions of gift or deposit, may be loaned only to another historical society or to a library to be used in its own building and then only on approval of the House Committee of this Society. The expenses incurred in any such loan shall be paid by the borrower.

Section 3. No books, manuscript or any other material belonging to the Starr Collection shall be loaned, nor shall any other manuscript material owned by this Society or on deposit with it.

Section 4. The use for research or other purposes of all materials belonging to the Starr Collection, or otherwise owned by the Society or deposited in its custody shall be subject to the supervision of the House Committee and under the immediate and constant supervision and inspection of the Librarian or the Custodian.

Section 5. For the use of the books, manuscript, and other materials in the Starr Collection, and the Society's materials as described or specified in section 4, a charge of seventy-five cents an hour shall be made and collected by the Librarian or the Custodian supervising the work. Of this hourly fee forty cents shall be alloted as compensation to the Librarian or the Custodian and the remaining thirty-five cents shall be paid into a seperate account maintained by the Treasurer of the Society. Disbursements from this account shall be made only by a special vote of the Society. Members of the Society shall be required to pay only the forty cents fee for the Librarian or the Custodian.

Section 6. The Custodian shall act on behalf of the Society for the sale of copies of the Starr Ancestral Charts. The price for single charts shall be fifty cents plus postage. For six copies to the same address, the price shall be two dollars and fifty cents plus postage. For twelve copies to the same address four dollars plus postage, and for each additional copy above twelve at the rate of thirty cents each. The Custodian shall receive a commission of twenty per cent on the sales. The balance of the receipts shall be paid into

the separate account of the Treasurer established under section 5.

Section 7. The Librarian and the Custodian shall deposit at least once a month with the Treasurer of the Society all moneys received together with an itemized statement; and the Treasurer shall pay each month the amount of fees and commissions due the Librarian or Custodian.

ARTICLE VI.

AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These by-laws may be altered, amended, or repealed and additional by-laws may be adopted at any meeting of the Society providing, at least five days before, a written notice of the proposed change has been given in the call for such a meeting, or the proposed change has been tentatively approved at a previous meeting and placed on the order of business.

Annual Report of the President

For the Year Ending April 15, 1941

It is of interest to observe that Friday next marks the Fortieth Anniversary of the birth of our Society, and that of the sixty-three who were named in the Charter ten are now living and two have died during the elapsed year.

The movement for the formation of this Society grew out of the celebration of the Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the settlement of Middletown. At that time a deep and extended interest was aroused in the honorable history of the community and in the distinguished records of a large number of its citizens who had achieved fame by the quality and quantity of their contribution to the civil and military history of the State and Nation. To quote our first President, the beloved Dr. Hazen,—

> "The feeling was quite genuine that a society should be organized, the aim of which should be to preserve and perpetuate the morals of our venerable past, as well as to take into its custody the countless relics of other days that are now in peril of loss, or of ruin, or of transfer to other localities, to whatever extent these might be committed to its guardianship."

During its early years the Society was obliged to seek accommodations for its meetings by virtue of the courtesy of other local societies and institutions until in 1907

Mrs. Margaret Sill Hubbard transferred to us her ancestral homestead with much that it contained for use as an abiding place and a depository for our scattered treasures.

As a matter of fact, 1907 appears to have been one of the brightest years in the Society's career as the members had been successful in making a substantial beginning on an endowment fund and the membership at the end of the year was one hundred and nineteen. This is the highest figure attained by our membership list during the forty years. Unfortunately, the list has decreased since that time, practically without interruption, until one year ago when it was only sixty-six. We are happy to report that our net gain for the elapsed twelve months has been five, so that we now have seventy-one names on the active list.

During this time, three men have filled the office of President; two the office of First Vice-President; three that of Second Vice-President; eight people have served as Secretary, and six as Treasurer. Three men in particular have outstanding records in office, namely, Dr. Hazen, our first President, who served in that capacity for twenty-three years, to be succeeded by Mr. William Walter Wilcox, Senior, who served for sixteen years, and Dr. George M. Dutcher who on this occasion completes service of twenty-five years as First Vice-President. To him on this occasion I am happy to extend the congratulations of the Society and its appreciation of his devotion to its interests.

Looking back at the report of twenty-five years ago we note that the membership was then exactly one

hundred, and it is both interesting and pleasing to observe that fifteen of those members are still living.

As we come together for this particular meeting, we find ourselves profoundly conscious of the perils which confront our American way of living in a world which is torn by war and revolution. We find ourselves challenged and perplexed by the encroachment of the powers of greed and despotism upon that freedom established by those noble souls who gave their all in its behalf. I firmly believe that societies such as ours must accept a full measure of responsibility to strengthen the moral and spiritual vigor of our people by awakening a real appreciation of the glories of the history of our community and our nation which will stir them to a new zeal in safeguarding those liberties and traditions which are the most precious heritage of every American. To this end let us first dedicate ourselves to the very practical task of assisting our friends to a full appreciation of the opportunity which is theirs to join their efforts with ours through membership in this organization. These are the days when real Americans should be not only willing, but enthusiastic to participate in the privilege of exploring and preserving the history of the past and in helping to write a history of the present such that we need not be ashamed to transmit it to those who come after us.

During the past year Mr. Bacon has completed the settlement of the estate of Mr. Frank Farnsworth Starr, and the valuable Starr collection of books; manuscripts and relics is now safely housed in the Society rooms. Great appreciation is due Mr. Bacon for the painstaking

and reverent manner in which he has endeavored to carry out Mr. Starr's many requests and to safeguard for us the material which is ours by virtue of Mr. Starr's bequests.

For many days and weeks Mr. Bacon, assisted by Mrs. Bacon, Mrs. Elizabeth V. Skinner, Mrs. Martha Benham, Mrs. Mary B. Evans, Mrs. Irving West, and Mrs. Jennie E. Harrington, labored diligently on the difficult task of arranging and cataloging the hundreds of books and documents which were removed from Mr. Starr's late home. I am sure that I speak for the entire membership when I say to these loyal workers that our Society is profoundly grateful for their devoted service.

A small sum of money remained available after the settlement of Mr. Starr's estate and this is being used by our Finance Committee for the purpose of establishing the Frank Farnsworth Starr Memorial Fund, in compliance with his request. The final disposition of Mr. Starr's home presented a rather difficult problem and our Executive Committee, aided by a few other members of the Society, met on July 29, August 15, August 21 and August 30 to discuss various plans. Finally a special meeting of the Society was called on October 2 and it was decided to sell the property in its then existing condition rather than attempt to renovate it and speculate on the probability of obtaining a larger price at some later date.

The regular meetings of the Society were held in accordance with the following list:

April 9, Annual Meeting, Reports and election.

May 14, Routine Business, Adoption of revised by-laws.

October 15. This was devoted entirely to a discussion of the Society's affairs and to the transaction of routine business items. After completing the routine business of the evening we elected the following persons to be Honorary Members of the Society:

Florence S. M. Crofut of New Haven
Albert C. Bates of Hartford
Samuel H. Fisher of Litchfield
Charles McLean Andrews of New Haven.

In extending this recognition and appreciation to these distinguished laborers in the field of historical research we have done honor to our Society as well as to them.

November 21. Mr. Jared Butler Standish of Wethersfield, a direct descendent of Miles Standish of Mayflower fame and a local historian of note, addressed us on "A change in the River and an early Highway." He illustrated his discourse with several maps and photographs and addressed us for over an hour in a most interesting and instructive manner.

December 17. Miss Edna Smith, President of the Clinton Historical Society, addressed us on "The Organization and Work of the Clinton Historical Society." In a most interesting and entertaining manner, she told the story of this Society which she played a prominent part in organizing and her delightful enthusiasm was both contagious and inspiring.

January 21. Miss Jessie Alsop, one of our own members, and for several years our efficient Secretary, gave a delightful address on "The Old Stone Schoolhouse," located in the Long Hill District. Her paper revealed

a vast amount of original research and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who were privileged to hear it.

February 18. Dr. Frank E. Potter, another of our members, addressed us on "The Past, Present and Future, Viewed at Large." Dr. Potter's discourse contained much of philosophy as well as of history and revealed that maturity of thought which comes from years of well-spent contemplation of the world about us. The discourse was not only enjoyable but inspired in all who heard it a renewed faith in those values which are eternal.

March 18. Our Vice-President, Dr. George M. Dutcher, addressed us on "George Washington's Reputation" and in a masterly presentation of a timely subject he thoroughly "debunked" the "debunkers." Out of a wealth of research he gave us an inspirational picture of the life and character of the Father of our Country.

On two occasions during the period since our last annual meeting death has brought loss to us, and each of the deceased was listed among those named in the original charter of the Society.

Morris Barker Crawford, for forty-one years a member of the Wesleyan faculty, died at the Middlesex Hospital on October 9, 1940, after a long illness. Professor Crawford graduated from Wesleyan in 1874 and remained as a tutor in Mathematics until 1877 when he went abroad and studied for three years in the Universities of Leipzig and Berlin. He returned to become instructor in physics at Wesleyan in 1880, was associate professor in 1881, and professor in 1884, continuing as Foss professor of physics until 1921 when he retired.

At the time he joined the Wesleyan faculty there were but eight professors. He was secretary of the faculty from 1880 to 1882 and again from 1892 to 1895. This was at a time when the secretary had to do all the work for himself as no stenographers were available for his assistance. He was a careful and skilled scientist in one of the most active periods of scientific development in modern history. Professor Crawford is credited with having been the first in Connecticut to take an X-Ray picture of a broken bone for the purpose of reducing a fracture, the picture being made in the fall of 1896 at a fraternity house on High Street.

A kindly, courteous, Christian gentleman, his familiar figure was often seen about the community where he was held in high esteem. An unusually active man ever since his retirement, Professor Crawford gave much of his time to the affairs of the First Methodist Church and the Phi Nu Theta Fraternity.

An article in the "Press" about the time of his retirement in 1921 contains the following significant and appropriate statement:

> "Of the men whose work in the last half century has contributed to make Wesleyan University what it is today, some others have given to the college more of the lustre which comes from conspicuous achievement; few, if any, have contributed a larger aggregate of useful work; none has ever given his services to the college in a spirit more loyal and unselfish."

On the morning of April 7, 1941 the community was startled by the report that Colonel Clarence Seymour

Wadsworth had died suddenly during the night in Royal Victoria Hospital at Montreal, Canada. He had apparently made a recovery from an extended illness which afflicted him a few months earlier, when he was stricken with coronary thrombosis.

Colonel Wadsworth was born in New York City, August 29, 1871, the son of Julius and Cornelia De-Koven Wadsworth. After attending schools in New York and studying abroad, he entered Harvard in 1892, subsequently graduating from the University and from the Law School, being admitted to the bar in 1899.

He married Katherine Hubbard, daughter of Elijah Kent Hubbard of this city, in 1897 and after completion of his law course they went to New York City to reside. He entered the 12th Regiment of the New York National Guard and rose to the rank of Colonel. He was in command of the regiment at the Mexican border in 1916, and when it was absorbed by the 212th Coast Artillery upon return of the troops to New York, he retired as a Reserve Officer. He was also a member of the famous First Corps Cadets of Boston and of the First Company, Governor's Foot Guard of Connecticut.

Colonel Wadsworth was an honored member of many Clubs, Literary, and Patriotic Societies in Conneticut and in New York. Locally he was a life member of the Middletown Lodge of Elks and of the various Masonic bodies, as well as a Charter and Life member of our Society. In late years, extended absences from the community prevented his active participation in our affairs, but a scrutiny of our Proceedings indicates that he gave

generously of his time and talents in the Society's earlier years.

His interest caused him to retain ownership of the DeKoven property on Washington Street which was once the home of many distinguished members of the family. He was actively interested in our parks and playgrounds, served for many years on the Park Commission; and donated the use of a large plot of land behind the DeKoven house for a playground which bears his name. In addition to membership on the Park Commission of the city, he accepted election to the State Senate from the 33rd District in 1933.

Colonel Wadsworth built a mansion at Long Hill and developed one of the largest estates in Connecticut. The magnificent house is surrounded with beautifully landscaped grounds and affords an extensive view of distant points. The street leading to the entrance to "Long Hill" bears the Wadsworth name.

Although in recent years he had resided in Bermuda and in Montreal, his interest and support were still kept available to this community. To Mrs. Wadsworth and to his two sons we express our sincere sympathy, as we sadly acknowledge the loss of this distinguished citizen. We are grateful that men of his stature were interested members of our Society.

In belief that it is very much a part of our obligation to the community to be alert to anniversaries of towns, churches, and local affairs of general interest, I appointed a Committee to extend the cooperation of the Society to the Town of Portland, which observes its centennial during 1941. This Committee consists of Judge Frank D.

Haines, Miss Jessie D. Alsop and Mr. Carlyle Bell. It will be appreciated if the full membership of our Society will accept the responsibility of bringing to the attention of the Society's officers any anniversary observances in which we may be of assistance, and by virtue of which additions may be made to the material which the Society is preserving for the future.

Much local history remains to be explored and placed on the printed page for preservation, and I would like the Society to give consideration to the matter of making available cash prizes to be awarded to those members of the High Schools in Middlesex County who produce essays of sufficient merit on matters of local history as to constitute a worthy addition to the records of the County. Should the Society look with favor upon this suggestion, it would be necessary to have suitable rules and regulations for the contest prepared by competent persons. In this connection, I believe that a photograph contest might well be sponsored by our Society with the idea of awarding prizes for photographs of things of historic interest in the County.

Along this line I believe that Middlesex County is far behind in the matter of providing suitable markers at historic points and that this is another matter to which we might well dedicate our efforts. I am sure that all of us have enjoyed the privilege of reading similar markers in our travels about the country, and that they make a real contribution to interest in local history as well as constituting something of a tribute to those men and events which they commemorate.

During the past year our attendance has been reason-

ably satisfactory and I believe that the interest of our membership is continuing. Certainly the interest of my associates in positions of responsibility in the Society is beyond question, and I take this occasion to express my very real appreciation to these associates in general, and to Mr. Bacon, Mr. Bell, Mrs. Benham and Mrs. Skinner in particular. At all times they have been loyal, courteous, and very capable in serving the interests of this organization.

It is my hope that the time may not be far distant when our funds and increased membership will permit that the rooms of the Society may be opened to the public on one or more days of each week. In this manner there will be aroused a more general interest in the Society and a better knowledge of the riches which we possess. It seems to me that as a matter of ethics we have an obligation in this direction to the community and to posterity. I quote from an address of our first President, Dr. A. W. Hazen:—

> "At the same time, we need the sympathy and the aid of a larger number of our intelligent citizens, that we may accomplish the most for the town and the county. This is no corporation seeking its own advancement alone. It is here to serve the interests of the entire district of the Commonwealth in which it has its home. To this end we should have members in all our towns who shall help us in securing funds, as well as historic memorials."

During the elapsed year members and friends of the Society have generously given and loaned many publica-

tions and relics of great value, which we acknowledge with most grateful appreciation. A list of these valuable acquisitions will be appended to the published report. Cooperation of this character increases the value of our collections not only to ourselves but to the community which we serve and to those who will come after us.

In this connection, I wish to direct your attention once again to the great importance of adding new members to the Society from each and every community in the county to the end that our membership may be truly representative and sufficiently large to enable us to render a full measure of service.

Ex-President Woodrow Wilson, who was one time an honored citizen of Middletown, once said:—

> "The right and vital sort of local history is the sort which may be written with lifted eyes—the sort which has an horizon and outlook upon the world. The significance of local history is, that it is part of a greater whole."

At another time he said:—

> "A spot of local history is like an inn upon a highway; it is a stage upon a far journey; it is a place the national history has passed through. There mankind has stopped and lodged by the way. Local history is thus less than national history only as the part is less than the whole—only in the sense in which each leaf of a book is subordinate to the volume itself."

Through the work of our Society let us be stirred to a zeal which will inspire others with that sense of patriotic devotion which will bring about the destruction of the

false and shallow philosophy which is so much in evidence, and result in a rededication to that spirit of self-reliance and sacrifice of immediate self-interest for the common welfare, which built America. Thus may we make a real contribution to that faith in God and Country which will preserve America and those liberties to which societies such as ours are a living monument.

Respectfully submitted,

ANSEL A. PACKARD,
President.

Secretary's Annual Report

April, 1941

The annual meeting of the Middlesex County Historical Society was held April 9th, 1940, there were eleven members present. Officers for the coming year were elected, and it was voted that an annual report be printed and a copy sent to each member of the Society.

At the May 14th meeting of the Society it voted to adopt the revised By-Laws. These new By-Laws have many changes, and fit the affairs of the Society as it is run today much better than the old ones that were revised in 1932.

They provide for a charge for consulting the Societies records, and also a small compensation for the custodian, so that all records will have care while being used.

The Starr Room is so nearly completed that the records in it may be used by the public. There are a few things yet to do, but these do not hinder persons looking for information.

In the past year we have had five meetings with speakers, two special meetings. The Executive Committee have had three special meetings.

During the year the Society has received twenty three articles given the Society, and thirty six articles loaned

the Society. These have all been acknowledged with the thanks of the Society.

Our President, Mr. Packard, has given the Society three beautiful Show Cases with glass shelves that will greatly help to make our exhibits more attractive.

Respectfully submitted,

HENRY BACON,

Secretary.

Annual Report

Middlesex County Historical Society

Carlyle S. Bell, Treasurer

April 1, 1940 to March 31, 1941 inclusive

Dr.

To Balance on hand April 1, 1940 - -	$ 36.15	
To Coupons Buffalo & Susquehanna R. R. Co. - - - - - - - -	40.00	
To Interest Buffalo & Susquehanna R. R. Co. - - - - - - - -	16.00	
To Interest St. Louis Iron Mountain & S. R. R. Co. - - - - - - -	80.00	
To Dues for year ending April 1, 1941 -	141.00	
To Dues for previous years - - -	27.00	
Received from Mrs. Martha Benham for telephone - - - - - - -	12.11	
Sale of "Silver Cups" Book - - - -	.50	
Sale of Ancestral Charts - - - -	33.63	
Interest Farmers & Mechanics Savings Bank	5.70	
To Amount withdrawn from The Portland Trust Co. General Fund - - -	350.00	
To Research work - - - - - -	2.35	
To amount received from Henry Bacon, Executor of Estate of Frank F. Starr. (Balance of Estate) - - - - -	294.23	
To reimbursement from Estate of Frank F. Starr for bills paid - - - -	71.95	
		$ 1,110.62

Cr.

By Printing & Stationery - - - -	$105.35	
By Rental Safe Deposit Box - - -	4.40	
By Water rent - - - - - - -	9.00	
By Insurance - - - - - - -	103.84	
By Telephone - - - - - - -	53.61	
By Coal - - - - - - - -	259.55	
By Service Charge on Checks - - -	7.20	
By Trucking (Estate of Frank F. Starr) -	14.60	
By Taxes (Estate of Frank F. Starr) - -	57.35	
By Postage and Stamps - - - -	4.75	
By Bacon Bros. Plumbing & labor - -	65.01	
By Commission Sale of Charts - - -	6.70	
By James D. Young. 50 Honorary Certificates	2.75	
By Linus Baldwin. Sidewalk - - -	6.75	
By Schaefer Electric Co. Electrical Supplies	17.67	
By New England Historic Genealogical Society. Adv. - - - - - -	3.25	
By New York Genealogical & Biographical Society - - - - - - -	8.00	
Deposit Sav. Dept. The Portland Trust Company, Frank F. Starr Fund - -	294.23	
Balance on hand in The Portland Trust Company - - - - - - -	86.61	
		$ 1,110.62

General Fund

$2,000 St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern R. R. Co. No. 13341 and No. 1487, 1st Mtge. 4%, due 1933 - - -	$2,000.00	
$1,400 Buffalo & Susquehanna R. R. Co. No. M6392 and No. 492, $1,000 and $400, 1st Mtge. Gold Bonds, 4%, due 1963 - - - - - - -	1,400.00	
		$ 3,400.00

Deposits

The Middletown Savings Bank No. 62547	$ 521.37	
The Farmers & Mechanics Savings Bank No. 22578 - - - - -	228.21	
The Portland Trust Company, No. 5152 -	129.63	
		879.21

Special Funds

Miss Emily A. Seldon Legacy (The Portland Trust Co.) - - - - -	$ 500.00	
Accrued Interest - - - - - -	74.62	
		574.62
Mrs. Katherine M. M. Hubbard Legacy (The Portland Trust Co.) - - - - -	$1,000.00	
Accrued Interest - - - - - -	88.18	
		1,088.18
William H. Burrows Legacy (The Middletown Nat. Bank) - - - - -	$1,000.00	
Accrued Interest - - - - - -	48.89	
		1,048.89
Edward P. Augur Legacy (The Middletown Nat. Bank) - - - - -	$ 500.00	
Accrued Interest - - - - - -	24.43	
		524.43
Wallace K. Bacon Legacy		
Dominion of Canada Bond - - -	$1,000.00	
Accrued Interest (The Portland Trust Co.	738.17	
		1,738.17
Azel W. Hazen Legacy (The Portland Trust Co.)	$ 500.00	
Accrued Interest - - - - - -	38.13	
		538.13
Frank B. Weeks Legacy (The Portland Trust Co.) - - - - - - - -	$1,000.00	
(Cromwell Dime Sav. Bank) - -	1,000.00	
Accrued Interest - - - - - -	253.32	
		2,253.32
Wilbur F. Barrows Fund (The Portland Trust Co.) - - - - - -	$ 500.00	
Accrued Interest - - - - - -	23.33	
		523.33
Frank F. Starr Fund (The Portland Trust Co.) - - - - - - - -		294.23
Life Membership Fund (The Portland Trust Co.) - - - - - - -		371.94
		$13,234.45

Respectfully submitted,

Carlyle S. Bell, Treasurer.

Examined and found correct,
April 14, 1941

A. W. Holmes, Auditor.

Custodian's Report

Mr. President, Officers and Members of the Middlesex County Historical Society:

During the past year our guests have numbered from April 1940 to April 1941 about 65.

Many of our guests hoped to come again when they can spend more time among so many things of interest.

We have had many accessions and they are much appreciated.

There have been some inquiries about genealogy and help given in most cases.

A few have been to the Society rooms to do their own research work.

Old newspapers seem to interest many, as they are valuable in the early history of our town, but like many others, our files are incomplete.

Respectfully submitted,

MARTHA J. BENHAM,

Custodian.

Report of Librarian

To the President, Officers and Members of the Middlesex County Historical Society:

During this past year your Librarian has had the pleasure of helping to arrange and catalogue the library left to the Society by Mr. Starr.

A great amount of worth-while knowledge can be obtained through the many Genealogies, Grave-stone Inscriptions, Church Records, Histories of many Connecticut Cities and Towns, Etc.

We have Family Genealogies in Manuscript form, of approximately 34,400 sheets.

2,869 Books and Pamphlets have been Accessed to date.

3,736 Catalogue Cards have been made.

And now may I thank each and everyone who allowed me this extraordinary privilege.

Respectfully submitted,

ELIZABETH SKINNER,

Librarian.

Members

Life Members

Hubbard, Elijah Kent (*Charter*) — Middletown
Mather, William Gwin, Feb. 18, 1908, — Cleveland, Ohio
~~Wadsworth, Clarence Seymour (*Charter*)~~ — Middletown
Wilcox, William Walter, (*Charter*) — Middletown
Wilcox, Mrs. Mary Root, Oct. 16, 1908, — Middletown
Dickinson, Walter Frederick, Oct. 18, 1932, — Wheatley, Long Island
White, Miss Ella L., Mar. 20, 1939, — Middletown
White, Frank H., Mar. 20, 1939, — Middletown

Honorary Members

Andrews, Charles McLean, Oct. 15, 1940, — New Haven
Bates, Albert Charles, Oct. 15, 1940, — Hartford
Crofut, Miss Florence S. Marcy, Oct. 15, 1940, — Hartford
Fisher, Samuel Herbert, Oct. 15, 1940 — Litchfield

Annual Members

Ackley, Miss Adeline E., Oct. 17, 1922, — Middletown
Alsop, Miss Jessie M., Oct. 16, 1928, — Portland
Alsop, Joseph Wright, May 20, 1902, — Avon

Babcock, Samuel, Mar. 15, 1904, — Middletown
Bacon, Curtiss Stow, Dec. 16, 1919, — Middletown
Bacon, Henry, Feb. 21, 1928, — Middletown
Bacon, Mrs. Phoebe, Mar. 19, 1935, — Middletown
Baldwin, Linus, Mar. 20, 1928, — Middletown
Bell, Carlyle, S., Jan. 19, 1932, — Portland
Bell, Herbert C., Feb. 15, 1927, — Middletown
Benham, Mrs. Martha J., Oct. 21, 1930, — Middletown
Bielefield, Frederick J., May 21, 1935, — Middletown
Bliss, Charles L., Feb. 17, 1931, — Middletown
Boughton, A. Leslie, May 17, 1938, — Middletown
Bransfield, Miss Margaret J., Apr. 21, 1931, — Portland
Bulkeley, Robert T., Oct. 17, 1933, — Middletown
Bell, Mrs. Aline N., Jan. 21, 1941 — Portland

Bunce, James Hough (*Charter*)	Middletown
Bunce, Mabel D., Apr. 21, 1931,	Middletown
Bunce, Richard H., Apr. 21, 1931,	Middletown
Butler, Dale D. (*Charter*)	Middletown
Coe, Raymond S., Oct. 20, 1921,	Cromwell
Davis, Newland Evans, Feb. 21, 1928,	Middletown
Dutcher, George Matthew, Nov. 21, 1905,	Middletown
Evans, Mrs. Mary Bunce, Jan. 17, 1928,	Middletown
Fisher, Miss Elizabeth L., Nov. 21, 1940,	Middletown
Germain, F. Norman, Jan. 19, 1937,	Middletown
Goodrich, Herbert Wells, Nov. 18, 1919,	Portland
Haines, Frank D., Dec. 15, 1931,	Portland
Hallock, A. Avery, May 17, 1938,	Cromwell
Harrington, Mrs. Jennie E., Apr. 18, 1916,	Middletown
Harrington, Prof. Karl P., May 20, 1941,	Middletown
Hitchcock, Henry-Russell, Jr., May 18, 1937,	Middletown
Hodge, Hubert C., Apr. 20, 1931,	East Hampton
Holmes, Allen W., Oct. 18, 1932,	Middletown
Holmes, Dr. Albert E., Oct. 15, 1940,	Middletown
Holmes, Mrs. Albert E., Oct. 15, 1940,	Middletown
Ingham, Charles, Oct. 15, 1935,	Haddam
Jones, Mary Alice, Mar. 19, 1935,	Middletown
Kelsey, Alva Hurd, Feb. 19, 1907,	Middletown
Kelsey, David Stone, Oct. 17, 1933,	Middletown
Leak, Roy L., Jan. 17, 1928,	Middletown
Markham, Leonard B., Oct. 18, 1932,	Durham
McConaughy, James L., Jan. 15, 1929,	Middletown
Merriam, Joseph, Mar. 10, 1902,	Middletown
Merriam, Robert W., Dec. 16, 1930	Middletown
Packard, Mrs. Lytle M., Nov. 21, 1940,	Portland
Packard, Ansel A., Oct. 16, 1934,	Portland
Palmer, Townsend, Oct. 18, 1932,	Middletown
Patenaude, Fred, Feb. 21, 1939,	Middletown
Potter, Dr. Frank E., Mar. 19, 1912,	Middletown
Rider, Fremont, May 15, 1933,	Middletown
Russell, Mrs. Henrietta I., Nov. 17, 1914,	Middletown

Russell, Thomas Macdonough, Apr. 21, 1936,	Middletown
Skinner, Mrs. Elizabeth V., April 17, 1934,	Hartford
Smith, Louis Stocking, Oct. 15, 1929,	Middletown
Smth, Mrs. Ella Hubbard, Jan. 27, 1918,	Hartford
Smith, Frank A., May 20, 1941,	Middletown
Smith, Mrs. Frank A., May 20, 1941,	Middletown
Smith, Miss Ruth E., May 20, 1941,	Middletown
Starr, Miss Alice T., May 20, 1940,	Middletown
Tyler, Rollin Usher, Jan. 16, 1923,	Haddam
Tyler, Mrs. Elizabeth Bolton, Apr. 21, 1936,	Haddam
Wamester, Raymond J., Jan. 19, 1937,	Middletown
Watrous, Oliver S., Apr. 19, 1904,	Middletown
Wells, Miss Mabel E., Nov. 21, 1940,	Middletown
West, Mrs. Maud E. Chapman, Jan. 1918,	Middletown
Willey, Leon B., Apr. 20, 1931,	Middletown

Accessions

3 Vols. Cotton Mather from David T. Pottenger. 3 Pamphlets from Jared B. Standish. Book "Miniature Paintings" by Anson Dickinson, from Albert C. Bates. Atlas of Middlesex County, from C. J. Robb. 1940 Connecticut Register & Manuel. Case, containing Civil War Rifle and Uniform worn by Henry A. Cornwall, from Perry Cornwall. Jar, with adv. of Southmayd & Boardman, from Mrs. Roswell Davis. Loaned to the Society by Miss Ada Aston, Charcoal Oven, Griddle with tin cover, Pillion, used by Sarah Sill Hubbard, Quill Wheel, Kite Frame, High Hat, Two Pieces home spun linen, Picture of Mather Barnes. The following books, "The Almost Christian Discovered" by Mather Mead, A Compendium of the Syster of Divine Truth, by Jacob Catlin; The Geography of the Heavens, by Elijah H. Burritt; A Treaties on Self Knowledge, by John Mason; The Hand of God in History, by Holles Read; Memoir of Harlan Page, by Wm. A. Hallock; The Force of Truth, by Rev. Thos. Scott; Religion and Eternal Life, by J. Pike; Robbins Journal, The

Publication of the American Tract Society. Vol. 1; History of the Reformation of the Sixteenth Century Vol. 1-2 and 4; A Discourse of Church Government; Dialogues Moral and Scientific Vol. 4; Truth Advocated; The Life of Rev. Thomas Scott D. D.; Two Newspapers, The Independant Dec. 17, 1868 and April 8, 1869.

The Middlesex County Atlas from E. Kent Hubbard; A 1908 Rostar and some photos of G. A. R. and History of Maromas, from Mrs. Nelson Turner; Loom from Prof. Harry Smith; 3 Vols. by David Pottenger, Silk Dress and Apron and Ribbons; Flax raised by Nehermire Hubbard; Pin Cushion belonging to Rose Washington Aston; Bodice belonging to Addie Hubbard; Black Silk Beaver; A Beaded Shelf Scarf, made by Ada Aston 1870; Parasol with divided staff and ferrule, School Catalogue 1852 Daniel Chase; Account Book of Elisher Hubbard 1791-1858, from Miss Ada Aston; Four separate appointments of Freeman Arnold as Corporal, Sargeant, Ensign and Lieutenant, of the 23rd Reg. from Rufus Bailey; Letter File, Account Book, Two books listing Donars, History of Pollokshaws United Presb. Church from John P. Bacon; Catalogue of Early Members of the First Congl. Church of New Haven, Conn. from Center Church; Circular of the Dedication and Anniversary of the First Congl. Church Cromwell, Conn.; Book "Richard Alsop" by Karl P. Harrington; The Ancestors and Decendants of Zachariah Eddy of Warren, Penn. by Byron B. Horton; A steel Plate or Die used by the Middlesex County National Bank for printing one, two and three dollar bills from Joseph Merriam; Coat and Hat Uniform of Continental Army from Mrs. Charles Warner; Diary of Civil War times of Capt. Uriah Parmelee of Guilford, Conn. from Charles Biggs, Vol. 1 and 2; "Guide to the History and Historic Sights of Connecticut" by and from Miss Florence S. M. Crofut; Autograph Contributors to the Monument Fund for Soldiers Monument from Mrs. Nelson Turner; William Leete Co. Founder of Guilford, from Mr. Charles Biggs; The Marvin Mission of Pilgerruh, from David S. Clark.

FORMS OF BEQUEST

(GENERAL)

I give and bequeath to the Middlesex County Historical Society, a corporation existing under the laws of the State of Connecticut, and located in the City of Middletown, in said State, ...dollars to be used at the discretion of said corporation.

(SPECIFIC)

I give and bequeath to the Middlesex County Historical Society, a corporation existing under the laws of the State of Connecticut, and located in the City of Middletown, in said State, ... dollars, in trust, the income from which to be used for the purposes following, that is to say: (Here specify in detail the purposes.)

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